

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:
 - entering one or more mathematical operators;
 - 5 entering a plurality of numeric values;
 - displaying the mathematical operators in one or more operation fields in columnar format down at least one of a plurality of rows on a display screen;
 - displaying the numeric values in a plurality of number fields in columnar format down the plurality of rows on the display screen;
 - 10 entering an open parenthesis character in an upper row;
 - entering a close parenthesis character in a lower row, wherein the lower row is displayed below the upper row on the display screen;
 - automatically calculating a result by applying the set of mathematical operators to the set of numeric values and by following an order of evaluation which respects the open
 - 15 and close parentheses;
 - displaying the result on the display screen.
2. The method of claim 1,
 - wherein the entering the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises
 - 20 entering the open parenthesis character in one of the number fields in the upper row.
3. The method of claim 1,
 - wherein the entering the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises
 - entering the close parenthesis character in one of the number fields in the lower row.
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4. The method of claim 1,
 - wherein the entering the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises
 - entering the open parenthesis character in one of the operation fields in the upper row.

5. The method of claim 1,
wherein the entering the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises
entering the close parenthesis character in one of the operation fields in the lower row.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
entering one or more comment strings; and
displaying the comment strings in one or more comment fields in columnar
format down the at least one of the plurality of rows on the display screen.

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7. The method of claim 6,
wherein the entering the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises
entering the open parenthesis character in one of the comment fields in the upper row.

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8. The method of claim 6,
wherein the entering the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises
entering the close parenthesis character in one of the comment fields in the lower row.

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9. The method of claim 1,
wherein the operation fields and the number fields are comprised in a first
column; and
wherein the method further comprises:
displaying a single column label for the first column, wherein the single column
label spans the width of one of the operation fields and one of the number fields.

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10. The method of claim 1,
wherein the operation fields and number fields are comprised in a plurality of
columns.

11. A system comprising:
- a CPU;
 - a display screen coupled to the CPU;
 - 5 a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:
 - receive into the memory one or more mathematical operators;
 - receive into the memory a plurality of numeric values;
 - display the mathematical operators in one or more operation fields in
 - 10 columnar format down at least one of a plurality of rows on the display screen;
 - display the numeric values in a plurality of number fields in columnar format down the plurality of rows on the display screen;
 - receive into the memory an open parenthesis character in an upper row;
 - receive into the memory a close parenthesis character in a lower row,
 - 15 wherein the lower row is displayed below the upper row on the display screen;
 - automatically calculate a result by applying the set of mathematical operators to the set of numeric values and by following an order of evaluation which respects the open and close parentheses;
 - display the result on the display screen.
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12. The system of claim 11,
- wherein the receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in one of the number fields in the upper row.
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13. The system of claim 11,

wherein the receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in one of the number fields in the lower row.

5 14. The system of claim 11,

wherein the receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in one of the operation fields in the upper row.

10 15. The system of claim 11,

wherein the receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in one of the operation fields in the lower row.

15 16. The system of claim 11, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

receive into the memory one or more comment strings; and

display the comment strings in one or more comment fields in columnar format down the at least one of the plurality of rows on the display screen.

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17. The system of claim 16,

wherein the receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in one of the comment fields in the upper row.

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18. The system of claim 16,

wherein the receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in one of the comment fields in the lower row.

5 19. The system of claim 11,
 wherein the operation fields and the number fields are comprised in a first column; and

 wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:
 display a single column label for the first column, wherein the single column label
10 spans the width of one of the operation fields and one of the number fields.

 20. The system of claim 11,
 wherein the operation fields and number fields are comprised in a plurality of columns.

15 21. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

 receiving into a memory one or more mathematical operators;
 receiving into the memory a plurality of numeric values;
20 displaying the mathematical operators in one or more operation fields in columnar format down at least one of a plurality of rows on a display screen;
 displaying the numeric values in a plurality of number fields in columnar format down the plurality of rows on the display screen;
 receiving into the memory an open parenthesis character in an upper row;
25 receiving into the memory a close parenthesis character in a lower row, wherein the lower row is displayed below the upper row on the display screen;

automatically calculating a result by applying the set of mathematical operators to the set of numeric values and by following an order of evaluation which respects the open and close parentheses;

displaying the result on the display screen.

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22. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in one of the number fields in the upper row.

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23. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in one of the number fields in the lower row.

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24. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in one of the operation fields in the upper row.

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25. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in one of the operation fields in the lower row.

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26. The carrier medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

receiving into the memory one or more comment strings; and

displaying the comment strings in one or more comment fields in columnar format down the at least one of the plurality of rows on the display screen.

27. The carrier medium of claim 26,

5 wherein the receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in the upper row comprises receiving into the memory the open parenthesis character in one of the comment fields in the upper row.

28. The carrier medium of claim 26,

10 wherein the receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in the lower row comprises receiving into the memory the close parenthesis character in one of the comment fields in the lower row.

29. The carrier medium of claim 21,

15 wherein the operation fields and the number fields are comprised in a first column; and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

20 displaying a single column label for the first column, wherein the single column label spans the width of one of the operation fields and one of the number fields.

30. The carrier medium of claim 21,

wherein the operation fields and number fields are comprised in a plurality of columns.

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